## **CLAIMS**

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1. A method of configuring a processing device, comprising the steps of:

accessing a certificate bound to the processing device; authenticating the certificate;

reading configuration parameters from the certificate, if properly authenticated;

configuring the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters from the certificate are performed whenever the processing device is initially powered.
  - 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters from the certificate are repeated upon a system reset/boot.
    - 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
- 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step includes the
  step of configuring software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
  - 6. A processing device comprising:processing circuitry;a memory coupled to the processing circuitry;wherein the processing circuitry:

accesses a certificate bound to the processing device and stored in

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the memory;

authenticates the certificate;

reads configuration parameters from the certificate, if properly authenticated;

5 configures the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

- 7. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters from the certificate whenever the processing device is initially powered.
- 8. The processing device of claim 7 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters from the certificate upon a system reset/boot.
- 9. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry configures hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
  - 10. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry configures software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
- 20 11. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the certificate can be created and modified only by the manufacturer of the processing device.
  - 12. A method of configuring a processing device, comprising the steps of:

accessing a certificate bound to the processing device;

25 authenticating the certificate;

reading configuration parameters from a data file associated with the

certificate, if the certificate is properly authenticated;

configuring the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

- The method of claim 12 wherein the steps of accessing the
  certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters
  are performed whenever the processing device is initially powered.
  - 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters are repeated upon a system reset/boot.
- 15. The method of claim 12 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
- The method of claim 12 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring software in the processing device responsive to the
  configuration parameters.
  - 17. A processing device comprising:

processing circuitry;

a memory coupled to the processing circuitry;

wherein the processing circuitry:

accesses a certificate bound to the processing device and stored in the memory;

authenticates the certificate;

reads configuration parameters from a data file associated with the certificate, if the certificate is properly authenticated;

configures the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

- 18. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters whenever the processing device is initially powered.
- The processing device of claim 18 wherein the processing circuitry
  accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration
  parameters upon a system reset/boot.
  - 20. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry configures hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
- 10 21. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry configures software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.
  - 22. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the certificate can be created and modified only by the manufacturer of the processing device.